GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:200
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
EXPLOITATION OF GROUND WATER
Chakrabortty Shri Swadesh;Dome Dr. Ram Chandra;Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Krishnadas Shri N.N.;Mollah Shri Hannan;Seth Shri Lakshman Chandra;Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any directions to the State Governments to take necessary steps to preserve the ground water storage against its unlimited exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereon;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce any special scheme to minimise the use of ground water;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the average rate of extraction of ground water for agriculture per day?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take necessary steps to check over- exploitation of ground water. The Central Government, has however, circulated a Model Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water to all State Governments/Union Territories in 1970, which has been re- circulated in 1992, 1996 and 2005 for adoption. So far, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Bill. The States of Gujarat and Maharashtra have passed the legislation but they have not enacted it. The States/Union Territories of Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Punjab and Chandigarh have intimated that they do not feel it necessary to enact legislation in this regard. The States/Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Manipur have not responded. Other States/Union Territories have intimated that they have initiated action for enacting legislation.

(c) The Ministry of Water Resources has no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The rate of extraction of ground water for agriculture varies from place to place depending upon the cropping pattern, rainfall intensity, etc. However, the net annual ground water withdrawal for irrigation is estimated as 150 Billion Cubic Meters.